**Canada**

* Federation  
  Centralized Federalism - Unless specifically related to local government, the power is generalized to the national government.
* Democracy
* Constitutional Monarchy – Parliamentary Cabinet Government
* The Queen, represented by the Governor General, is the head of state, and the prime minister is the head of the government  
  The head of state can, in exceptional circumstances, protect Parliament and the people against a prime minister and ministers who may forget that “minister” means “servant,” and may try to make themselves masters.
* Concentration of powers:   
  The prime minister and every other minister must by custom (though not by law) be a member of one house or the other, or get a seat in one house or the other within a short time of appointment.
* Terms of office not rigidly fixed (three – five years)
* Prime Minister can stay in power for as long as their party elects them  
  As long as the government can keep the support of a majority in the House of Commons, it can pass any legislation it sees fit unless an adverse majority in the Senate refuses to pass the bill.  
  If the government loses its majority support in the House of Commons, it must either make way for a government of another party or call a fresh election.
* Constitution - The Canadian prime minister did not appear in the written Constitution until 1982. It still contains nothing on prime ministerial qualifications, the method of election or removal, or the prime minister’s powers – all based on custom and conventions – not law.
* Meaning of constitution settled by courts

**USA**

* Federation  
  Decentralized Federalism – The state’s rights are fundamental
* Democracy
* Republic – Presidential Congressional
* President is head of state **and** the head of the government  
  The American head of state cannot restrain the American head of government because they are the same person.
* Separation of Powers:  
  The American president cannot be a member of either house of Congress. Neither can any of the members of his or her cabinet. Neither the president nor any member of the cabinet can appear in Congress to introduce a bill, or defend it, or answer questions, or rebut attacks on policies. No member of either house can be president or a member of the cabinet.
* Elected for Fixed Term - 4 Years Impeached before 4 years  
  President has less power or more power depending on the majority of the House and Senate but unless impeached stays on as President
* President can serve two terms or eight years maximum.
* President presents program to Congress who can change or reject the bills. Congress and Senate can agree on a bill and President can reject it.  
  Veto or rejection can be overridden by a two-thirds majority in both houses.
* Constitution - The president of the United States is included in the written Constitution: his or her qualifications for the position, the method of election, the method of removal — all the essential powers of office, in black and white, unchangeable except by formal constitutional amendment.
* Meaning of Constitution settled by courts